

SITE NUMBER: C-R3-01
LOCAL NAME: Whispering Waters
WRIA: 20.0175J

NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SITE INVENTORY DATA

RIVER SYSTEM: Calawah R. **DATE:** 1/17/90 **OBSERVER:** Nettnin

CHANNEL TYPE: Terrace trib. (Wall based spring channel)

TRIBUTARY TO: Calawah R. (20.0175)

SITE LOCATION: R.B. @ River Mile: 7.6 (WDF)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

	UPPER END	LOWER END	RIVER TEMP
<u>WATER TEMP:</u>	42 F	44 F	41 F
<u>FLOW (CFS):</u>	< 0.25	5 - 6	

SUBSTRATE TYPE: Mostly silt bottom with some exposed gravel in places. The lower 100 m reach is primarily rubble and gravel.

SITE SIZE: **Length-** 2490 m
 Width- Water surface = 1 - 8 ft
 Channel = 6 - 12 ft
 Depth- 6 - 24 in

WATER SOURCE: Springs and surface run off

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: North from the town of Forks on Hwy 101. Turn right (i.e. east) 0.25 miles north of MP 193 onto Forest Service Road 29. Proceed east on F.S. Rd 29 about 0.4 mi. then turn right (i.e. south) onto a gravel road that is blocked by a cable gate. Walk past the gate and follow the road down the steep hill to a pumping station. The road dead ends at C-R3-01. This access point is located about 1000 m above the mouth of the channel.

FISH ACCESS AND CURRENT USE: Fish appear to have unrestricted access to C-R3-01. Salmonid fry were seen in a couple of spots, but no species identification was possible. Some spawning also may occur in C-R3-01. What appeared to be small redds or test digs were seen in two places.

FLOODING POTENTIAL: Low.

LANDOWNER: Unknown at this time.

COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS: C-R3-01 is a rather extensive channel (2.5 km in length) with a gentle to moderate gradient throughout. It is probably already utilized to some extent for juvenile coho winter rearing. The channel appears, however, to have potential for increased production through habitat enhancements. Considering the relative lack of good off channel rearing areas along the Calawah, this area could be extremely important.

(Continued on next page)

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COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS: (Continued)

C-R3-01 enters on the right bank of the Calawah at a glide. The deepest part of this glide is along the RB side of the river. The lower 200 m reach of C-R3-01 is incised and has a moderate gradient. This reach has a substrate of rubble, gravel and sandy gravel.

The next reach meanders through a small marshy valley. The channel is well defined (1 to 2 ft deep and 6 to 8 ft wide). Water doesn't appear to flood the sedge grass along the banks. About 950 m above the mouth is a pumping station (believed to belong to D.O.T.). A road leads out to FS Rd. No. 29 and provides good access to the middle reach. The channel continues meandering along the base of a high terrace wall for another 700 m.

About 1680 m above the mouth of the channel the gradient increases somewhat as C-R3-01 cuts through a small terrace. An old grade crossing at this point has collapsed into the channel and appears to be forming at least a partial barrier to fish passage. This blockage can be removed by a crew with hand tools. Some exposed gravel in this area may accommodate coho spawning.

The reach above the old road crossing maintains a gentle gradient for another 800 m or so. The flow decreases gradually throughout this upper reach. There are a number of old beaver dams that are no longer holding water.

Overall C-R3-01 seems to be an excellent wall-based spring channel. It appears to flow all year, is well shaded and has a fair amount of cover. The entire channel has an overstory of mature alder. The main short coming of C-R3-01 appears to be its lack of deep pools and quiet water and the apparent blockage at the old grade crossing.

Some recommendations for channel C-R3-01 are:

- Removal of debris from grade crossing bridge.
- Construction of a spawning pad near the pumping station and at the old grade crossing.
- Creation of deep pools along the side of C-R3-01 where there is spring action. This would create some quiet waters and still maintain some change over.
- Bead channel where feasible.

NORTH COAST OFF CHANNEL SURVEY
SUBSEQUENT SITE EVALUATION FORM

River System: Calawah River

Channel No.: C-R3-01

Site Name: Whispering Waters

WRIA: 20.0175J

DATE: 2/21/90

OBSERVER: Young

Set minnow traps baited with commercially prepared salmon roe at four selected sites along the length of the channel (see enclosed map). The traps were set between 15:00 and 16:30.

Trap #1: Set along the right bank of the channel, and just upstream of the pump house. It was set on the bottom, in about 12 to 16" of water, near overhanging grass and small debris.

Trap #2: Set at mid-channel about 50 m downstream of the old grade crossing. It was set on the bottom of a pool, in about 12 to 16" of water. Overhanging marsh grass and ferns as well as a few medium size logs laying across the creek provided nearby cover. The gravel in this area may support spawners. Appeared to be an old redd just upstream of the trap site.

Trap #3: Set near the upper end of the large shallow pool just upstream of the old grade crossing. It was set along the right bank of the pool and alongside of a large log laying parallel to the bank. The trap was set on the bottom in 12 to 16" of water. Spooked a fish (trout?) from under the log while setting the trap.

Trap #4: Set near the extreme upper end of the channel (i.e. at the upper end of the rearing habitat survey). It was set in a shallow, muddy flat (possibly an old beaver pond) near LOD and overhanging salal brush. The trap was placed on the bottom in 8 to 10 inches of water.

DATE: 2/23/90

OBSERVER: Young

Fished the minnow traps that were set on 2/21. Traps were fished between 09:00 and 10:00. Results are reported below:

Trap #1: 3 coho (80 - 90 mm) & 1 sculpin. Water temp: 47 F.

Trap #2: 1 coho (80 - 85 mm) & 2 sculpin. Water temp: 47 F.

Trap #3: 1 coho (90 - 100 mm), 1 CT trout (85 - 90 mm) and 1 sculpin. Water temp: 48 F.

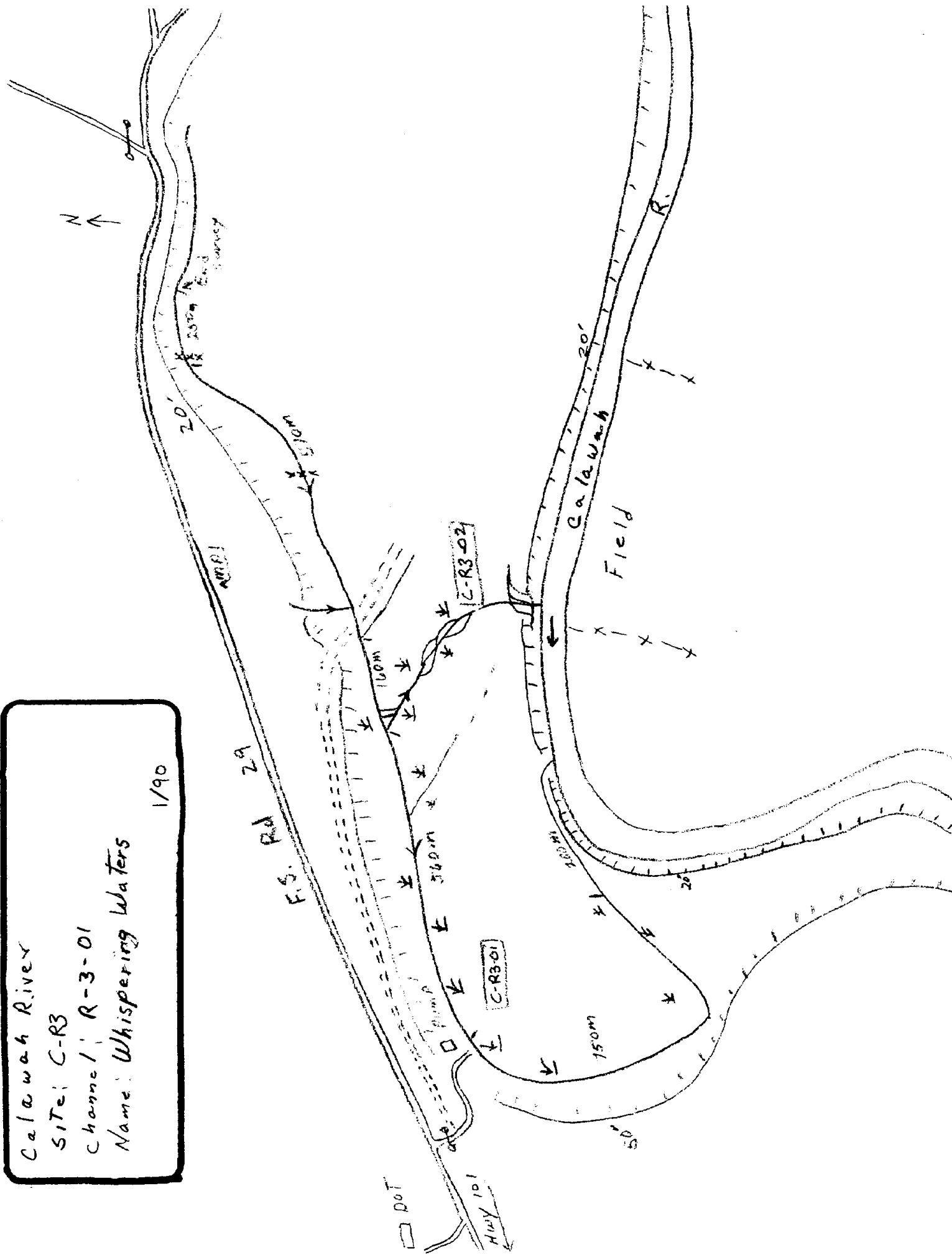
Trap #4: 1 coho (90 - 100 mm), 1 CT trout (about 120 mm) and 2 sculpins. Water temp was not taken.

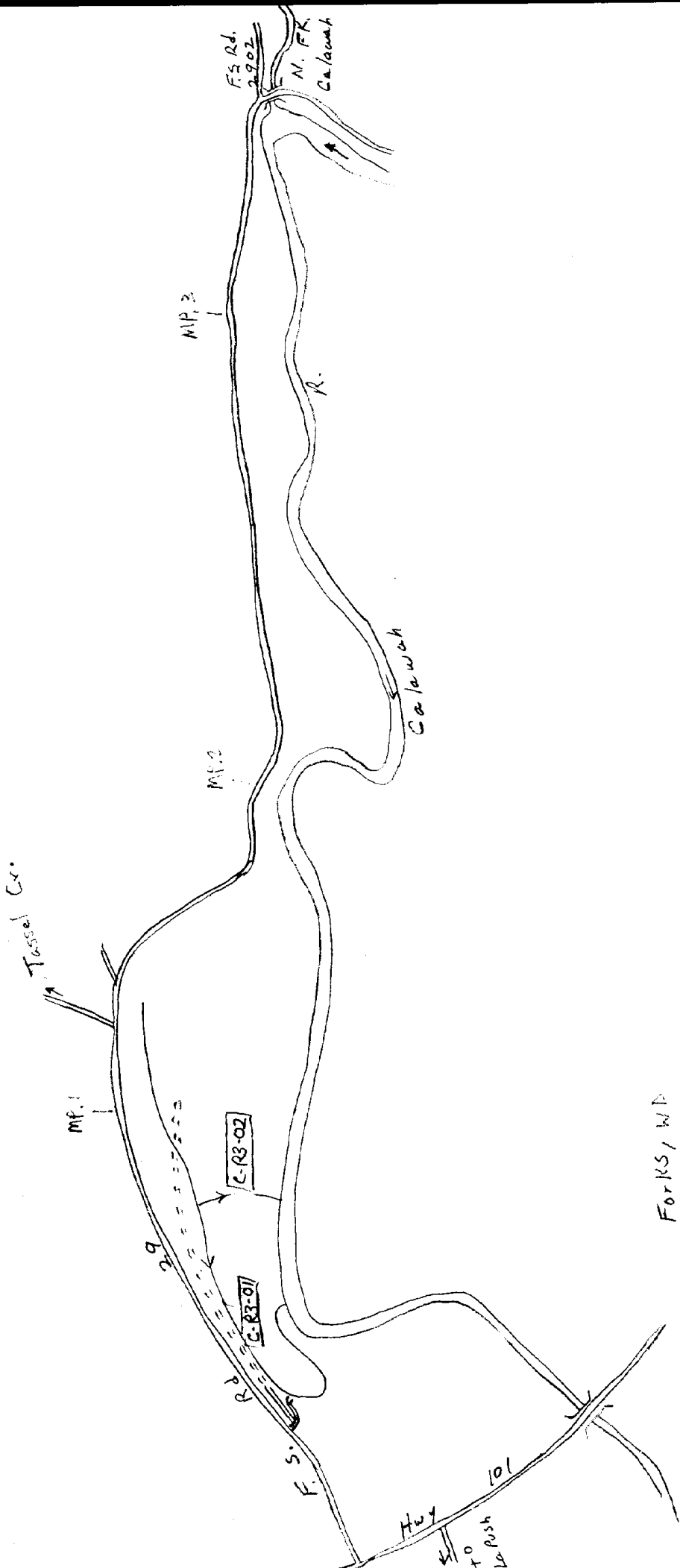
DATE: 7/5/90

OBSERVER: King

Good flow in this channel on this date. No fish seen.

1/90





River: Calawah R.
 Site: C-R3
 Overview map
 5/90

[illegible]